



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
LANSING

KRISTEN E. COLUMBUS
CHAIRPERSON
VENDELLA M. COLLINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 26, 2014

Senator David Robertson
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI
48909-7536

Dear Senator Robertson:

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is a 21-member body appointed by the Governor to assist persons with developmental disabilities (PWDD) to achieve life dreams. We are writing to you today in support of HB 4478.

Thank you for considering this important legislation and speaking with your fellow legislators on the Local Government and Elections Committee about the importance of this bill.

This legislation is vitally important to us because it is difficult for individuals with physical disabilities to print or sign their name. The use of a signature stamp (SS) would be beneficial for those who have difficulties. HB 4478 would help individuals with their application to vote, when registering to vote and/or for the purpose of obtaining an absentee ballot.

We have a concern about the possibility that somebody with access to the person with disability's SS could use it to impersonate them and vote in their place. To prevent against this, person's using a signature stamp could be asked for their photo identification (I.D.). In addition, the use of the SS must be optional and not required.

Thank you for your work on this important legislation. If you have any questions or concerns on disability or developmental disability issues please contact us at 517-335-3158 or mdch-dd-council@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Vendella M. Collins
Executive Director

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
JAMES HAVEMAN, DIRECTOR
1033 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48913
(517) 334-6123 Voice • (517) 334-7354 TDD • (517) 334-7353 Fax
WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV